



# TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205  
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## S.T.E.M. Day: The Goods, the Bads, the Betters

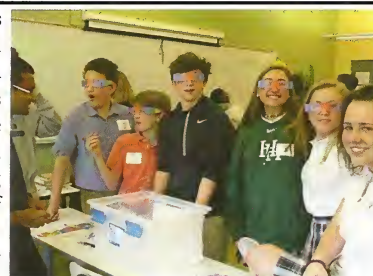
By William Rogers

The entirety of the eighth grade of Montgomery Bell Academy got onto the buses around 9:50 A.M., bound for our sister school, Harpeth Hall. The occasion, of course, was the one and only S.T.E.M. Day: a day designed to enhance our minds on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in the presence of our eighth-grade counterpart of Harpeth Hall.

We were divided up into two groups of one-hundred and were taken to different stations and activities. First was Dr. Valentine's talk on Invisibility and Light Reflections. We learned all about the reflections of light and how difficult it would be to make Harry Potter's Invisibility Cloak. After the talk we were divided into smaller groups and were taken to do the different experiments and activities with the

Vanderbilt students. We had activities ranging from popping balloons with lasers to using lasers to transport sound to another area. We also had activities related to invisibility such as the one where we dipped a glass rod into water, and then put it in cooking oil. The ending result: you couldn't see even a trace of the glass rod! These experiments with the Vanderbilt students were extremely fun and instructive.

In the second part of the day, we focused on the major parts of S.T.E.M. Day such as Mental Math and Engineering. We did projects such as flying paper airplanes, dropping an egg and trying not to make it crack, and even making whistles out of straws (only a few mastered the skill level). We had two mental math stations, one where you had to do the math in your head, and one that was a riddle type game. When it came to the paper airplanes, few students could land their planes on or near the bullseye (either from lousy aim or a lousy plane, usually a mixture of the two). One of the hardest stations was putting as many pennies as possible into a tinfoil boat. Sounds easy right? No. That would be a solid no. You always walked into the station feeling like a hotshot, and then it turns out you could only get fourteen pennies into it. For all of those seventh graders out there, play it safe and use the "barge method." Max



Scheele and Joseph Robertson held the record with their game-winning barge. The station where you try and drop the egg without cracking it was another upset as far as how well everyone did (at least for my team...we didn't do so hot). You had to use up to ten pieces of paper to make a landing pad that would make a safe landing for a fragile egg. All in all, these stations were very enjoyable and built chemistry (no pun intended) between the MBA and HH eighth grade.

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# Images from S.T.E.M. Day





# M.E.T.S. Day

By Thomas Peterson

Friday, February 24, 2017 was a special day for eighth-grade students at Montgomery Bell Academy and Harpeth Hall. It was officially time to commence M.E.T.S. ("Making Eighth-Grade Teenagers Speechless") Day, a long-standing tradition at the two schools, where students meet to learn about some of the more perplexing science questions of our time. This year, MBA students traveled to Harpeth Hall. Upon arrival, students were divided into groups according to their last names, and went from room-to-room to learn and test several confounding scientific theories. First up was "Optimizing the Sensory Characteristics of



*Research student demonstrates how students should eat the cat food.*

Canned Cat Food: A Human Taste Panel." Students were asked to profile the flavor and texture of a range of cat food products, focusing primarily on meat chunk and gravy/gel constituents. Participants found that grittiness appeared to be the most discriminating textural attribute, while viscosity of the gravy/gel was most distinctive. Students were informed that their experiments would be used for the important work of improving the



*The test cat at M.E.T.S. day is not happy with the students' choice.*

flavor and texture of cat food, and for predicting how the taste of cat food influences cat feeding behavior. Most students were extremely ready to move on from this panel to the next classroom, where they found themselves in a room full of pigeons and easels. It may sound like the start of a bad joke, but here the topic of inquiry was whether pigeons can form the ability to discriminate between "good" and "bad" paintings by children. In this classroom, a cage of pigeons and ten canvases of children's paintings were on display. The pigeons were trained to peck the canvas if it were a good painting, or squawk if it were a bad one. This experiment came to an abrupt halt, however, when all of the pigeons suddenly flew out of the classroom door and invaded the hallways of Harpeth Hall.

Students were ready to call an end to the M.E.T.S. Day festivities, but the teachers were not daunted, for the day must go on. In the final event

of the day, students were asked to measure the characteristics of penguins' projectile feces. Without elaborating too much, let's just say that if you are ever near a penguin post dinner, it is a good idea to keep your distance -- at least eighteen inches or so (especially if said penguin participated in the cat food taste panel). You're welcome.

This unique experience finally ended having lived up to its name. Speechless MBA students boarded their buses back to MBA, grateful that M.E.T.S. Day only comes along once in their MBA careers. Next year, M.E.T.S. Day will be back on MBA's campus. Who knows what Mr. Spiegel has in store for 2018!



*Penguins celebrate their successful "contributions" to M.E.T.S. Day.*

# *Junior Honor Society Inductees Congratulations on a Job Well Done!*



## Spring 2017 Junior Honor Society Inductees

Rex Allsep  
Emanuel Barrett  
Sam Bartholomew  
Frank Bass  
Wyatt Bettis  
Andrew Bulgarino  
Tripp Chamblin  
William Clark  
Max Dillon  
Adam Garfinkel  
Charlie Hansen  
Eli Kampine

Dustin Lee  
Ethan Lilly  
Lindsey Buchanan  
Bennett MacCurdy  
Charlie Mason  
Mauro Mastrapasqua  
Flynn McRae  
Sam Meacham  
Matthew Milam  
Luke Morad  
Stokes Myers  
Patrick Pergande

John Powers  
Will Renkis  
Zach Ricciardelli  
Joseph Robertson  
Colin Smith  
Michael Spellman  
Colin Tang  
Thomas Tatro  
Stanford Thombs  
Ross Walker  
Scott Wallace  
Jason Zhu



# PL Average Being Changed to 94!

By Andrew Bulgarino



*Will a crowded PL room soon be a thing of the past?*

Recently, teachers who have graduated from MBA in the past have been saying that classes have gotten generally easier at MBA; therefore, making grades higher. Mrs. Stewart and the Junior School teachers have decided to respond to this idea by raising the Privilege List average to 94. Many teachers are very excited about the change, and most of the study hall proctors are looking forward to meeting all of the newly arriving students in Massey Commons. Mrs. Stewart herself is quite happy with the change, and she told the advisory presidents about it in the most recent Junior School Leadership Council meeting. The presidents could not tell anyone, as the decision had not yet

been fully made. As a class president myself, I can now officially say that this rule is being enforced. Mrs. Stewart is well aware of the possible anger from the students this rule will cause, but she believes that it will teach the true meaning of the word "privilege" in the phrase "privilege list." She is worried, however, about the influx of students arriving in Massey Commons, and she has talked about expansion in the area, as she does want the students to be able to work in an uncrowded environment. The library, on the contrary, is looking forward to the decrease in the number of students that will be working there on a day-to-day basis... as is Mrs. Haendel, for she will not have to deal

with the noisy students in the PL Room any longer. Speaking of the PL Room, Mrs. Stewart is glad that this rule will allow the new and improved PL Room to be used for its intended purpose: to study in a quiet area, not to play around with friends. One of the hopeful benefits of this new decision is that the number of students on Dish List will decrease, for the students will actually get their work done during Study Hall instead of messing around elsewhere on PL. This decision has been constantly brought up, especially after the recent midterm exams. Overall, the entire Junior School Faculty is quite excited about the decision to move the PL average to 94.

## 8th Graders to Attend Homecoming Dance Next Year

By Bo Wilbanks



This upcoming school year (2017-18), MBA has decided to try something new and include eighth graders in the Homecoming Dance. This decision is a revolutionary move, as we are the first private school in Nashville to go this route. Not only will the eighth graders be included in the dance, but they also will have a Homecoming queen that will be recognized at the football game. Personally, this decision came to a surprise to me as I thought it was a joke when I first read it, but it's true, and the eighth graders will be there!

I talked to many rising eighth graders, and they are all very excited to be included and participating this year. They feel it's a new opportunity to connect with the high schoolers and the girls. The night is strategically planned out for the 8th graders who will have a little less freedom than the high schoolers. It starts out with having a grade-wide picture session at MBA. After that the 8th graders must stay at the dance for at least an hour before they can leave. The 8th graders will then have a mandatory after party to celebrate with their friends after the dance. Dinner will be provided at the party for the hungry dancers to eat. Though the night is planned out and there is little freedom of what you would like to do, the night is to be fun and new for all involved. However you feel about the move, one cannot deny how revolutionary this change is. Next year's dance is sure to be interesting to say the least!

## MBA To Alter Dress Code!



By Kyle Tavi

Recently, MBA has been entertaining the possibility of altering the dress code. So far, the main idea has been to convert to coat and tie. This change will include a button up white shirt, formal slacks, black dress shoes, coat, and tie. Students will be expected to have their class pin on the coat at

all times. Coat and tie is the standard formal wear for men, and you know MBA is all about that. There are three main reasons to switch to this dress code: elimination of exceptions, orderly minds, and appearance to visitors.

The dress code would eliminate all exceptions and confusion about the dress code. There would be no question of whether a shirt or shoes are in line with the rules, because it would be standard and easy to compare. Also, students could not get away with not having the right clothes by hiding them under a sweatshirt. Best of luck trying that with the coat and tie!

It is common belief for doctors and teachers alike that neat dress reflects an ordered mind. Whether or not that is true, the teachers of Montgomery Bell Academy have taken it upon themselves to instill this quality in their students. The stiff nature of the new dress code will promote a stronger

memory and more attentive focus among students, a trait that all schools should or do value. I have to say, I agree with Mr. Gioia and the rest on this one. The last and possibly most important example is the appearance of Montgomery Bell Academy students to visitors. In order to promote itself MBA has always strived to create a good impression, inside and out of the school. Similar to many major colleges, our athletes are encouraged or forced to wear MBA attire to their sports; likewise, this new dress code will instill the same effect in its uniform on the Hill.

Although it will take some getting used to, the new MBA dress code of coat and tie will have a positive and lasting effect on the school in the long run. It may be slightly uncomfortable, but the change will be for the better when it occurs at the start of the next school year.

## What's Inside Wims' Closet?

By Thomas Peterson



Have you ever wondered what is so amazing about Mr. Wims' closet? Well I am here to tell you what all the fuss is about here today. First off, it is not a closet. It is the door to the staircase that leads to the basement. He has completely *MTV My Crib*ed this basement. The left corner has a hot tub filled with his wife's famous soup. Then you go to the mid-left wall and notice posters of kids who got 100's on tests, but forgot to write their names. Seeing the posters makes Coach Wims (not mad) but disappointed, so he goes to his exact replica of the Green Hills Mall water fountain that only sprays hand sanitizer. After scrubbing in some hand sanitizer, Coach and I walked to the right corner. First off the entire right wall is stacked up with Diet Mountain Dew cans. Coach Anderson says under all of these cans is a "bench press for Coach Brock." Coach Anderson also claims to have seen "break dancing mats" in there also, and that would make sense because Coach Wims is known to "pop and lock" every

now and then. It was an adventure to go in Coach Wims' closet with him. Now you know what coach could possibly do in his closet for thirty minutes.

### Other Interesting Items in Coach Wims' Closet

Kids who tap their pens in class  
Photos of him and Mad Dog  
Kyle Tavi's Twinkies  
Bode Segers' protractor  
A batting cage  
The book "How to Get Someone Hyped Up in Math 101"  
Scott Wallace's key card that was in the AC  
Frank Bass' laser pointer  
A best teacher mug from the entire school



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# MBA Personal Laptops

By Sam Meacham



Every junior school student knows the struggle. You're in study hall, and either have no idea what your homework is, or you have homework that relies on access to a computer. You either try to convince the proctor to let you pull out your phone, or you sit there with nothing to do. Luckily, this problem will soon be a thing of the past when, starting in the 2017-2018 school year, MBA will begin providing all students with a personal laptop. Following many other schools in the area and around the country, MBA has finally decided to provide their students with this invaluable resource to promote academic

success in an age where education has become reliant on technology. The laptops will be extremely useful as MBA's curriculum becomes more technology-reliant. The devices will be given out on registration day this fall and will be with the students for their entire MBA career. The laptop will be the new 2017 MacBook Pro, a powerful and effective computer.

Another benefit given to the students by the laptops will be a lighter backpack. Many MBA textbooks can be purchased online, so the laptops will provide a needed relief from carrying so many heavy books around all day. Despite these

added benefits, a concern of some teachers before approving the idea was over the proper use of the laptops. Some teachers feared that laptops would give students too much freedom, which could be abused if students use their new resource for games and other activities which could distract them from their schoolwork. Thankfully, the teachers decided that the benefits given to the students by laptops would outweigh the possible negative effects. Because of this decision, gone are the days of standing nervously, waiting for the person in front of you to get off the PL room computer. Gone are the days of getting notes to go to the library to work on computer-reliant homework. The addition of student laptops to MBA will hopefully turn out to be a smart move by the administration and one that will hopefully pay dividends throughout the next school year and the years to follow.



## GET READY TO PERFORM!

April is National Poetry Month

### It is Time for the Annual Junior School Recitation Competition

Entry level performance competitions begin in each English class in April, with winners from each class moving on to the main competition in Massey Commons on Tuesday, April 11 and Wednesday, April 12.

The seventh-grade winner(s) will face the eighth-grade winner(s) on Wednesday, April 19.

Prizes are awarded to each grade level winner.  
Contact your English teacher or Mrs. Roberts for more information.



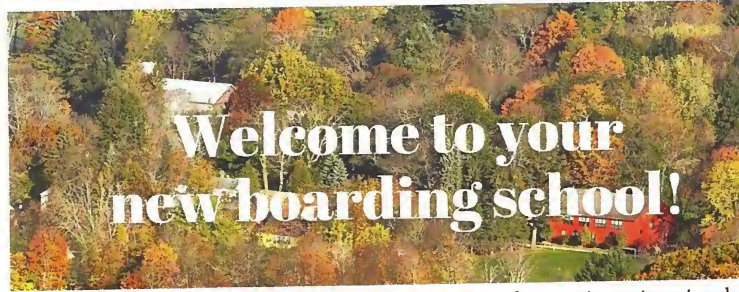
# MBA to Become a Boarding School

By Kyle Tavi

As Montgomery Bell Academy nears the end of the 2016-2017 school year, it is faced with both daunting possibility and opportunity for the next. According to various overlapping rumors and overheard conversations, it is extremely likely for MBA to become a boarding school. Yes, that may seem a bit impossible, but I assure you it's not. If you closely examine the evidence, you'll see that the conversion is very likely and obviously has motives behind it.

The first bit of evidence is the primary motive behind it all. I, for one, am one of the people who hangs out in the PL Room or the Library, waiting for a parent to pick me up. Mrs. Stewart has been spotted on various occasions asking students how long it will be until their parents arrive. It must have dawned on her that there was a simple solution to the problem. A boarding school would eliminate the possibility of late parents and students hanging around after hours. It is quite likely that it was her idea to formulate this plan.

However, there is another quite different motive for this conversion. Every morning, the school is packed with hungry students who spend their time in the dining hall eating breakfast. This is perfectly fine to the students, but



something is overlooked; for, when they arrive at class, there is one thing missing. Is it a full stomach? Definitely not. Is it the student himself? Nope, that's not it either (or at least hopefully not). It's the homework. A student who forgets to feed himself often will forget his homework as well. This starts a chain reaction of doing homework in study hall to turn in the period after then not having anything finished when they get home, then not having their homework in the morning again. A boarding school would solve that problem as well. After all, there's nothing more motivating than Mr. Spiegl standing over you as you do homework. And we could forget the possibility of not eating... not with MBA's food.

Another reason for the

upcoming change is quite simple: students will never be late to school. Tardiness also follows along with the homework, because students don't have time to finish it in the morning. Imagine explaining to your advisor that you were late because... the two minute walk to school took too long? Not going to happen. True, this will probably rob many students of their precious excuses, but it also eliminates the need for said excuses.

Overall, being a boarding school provides the teachers with students who are on time and don't stay long, as well as no one being hungry, and all homework being done. If you think that they would pass up that kind of opportunity, you should probably think again. Be prepared to receive the check with the updated tuitions in the next few months. Don't worry though, we will get weekends off. Good luck, and say your goodbyes.

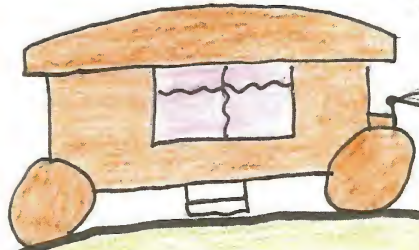




# Are We Out?

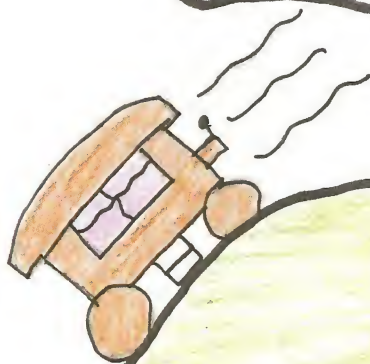
By: Clay Crews

After seven chapters... We are finally out of the ditch.



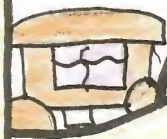
JK

OH NO!!!

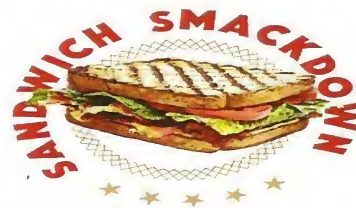


Looks like you are stuck in the ditch for seven more chapters. Hahaha!

You have to be joking!



FEATURES



## Jersey Mike's

By James Kinard

If you are searching for the best fast food or quick eat, look no more; Jersey Mike's Subs is the place to be. They have a location on White Bridge Pike near Hillwood and another on Bandywood Road in Green Hills. It has amazing tasting subs and the nicest workers. As they say in the commercials, "Be a sub above!"



The problem with most sub shops is that you do not get to see the meat being cut. Yes, you see the meat getting put on the sandwich, but the cutting of the meat is never seen at Which Wich. At Jersey Mike's, you talk to the person making the sandwich, unlike writing on the bag. You can ask for more lettuce, mayo, or anything, but not at Which Wich. What goes on the bag is what you get, if you want a lot of olives, then you get the normal amount of olives because you go to your seat and wait with no communications with the sandwich maker. If you have time to fill your drink, sit down, and check your phone, which you can at Which Wich, it is taking too long. At Jersey Mike's, the only time you are not ordering the sandwich is when they are cutting the meat (which takes ten seconds at most); the sub production process is more interactive, efficient, and more effective for the consumer. Jersey Mike's has better service than Which Wich, because

you can always talk to the workers, and the sandwich gets to the consumer faster.

Despite popular belief, upon special request, you can get your sandwich heated, but the subs are designed to be served cold. Jersey Mike's is known for their house-cooked, delicious roast beef. Overall, it is much better than Which Wich.

## Which Wich

By Bo Wilbanks

Which Wich is a very consistent eat. Found near Vanderbilt, Green Hills, and Brentwood among other places, it is always near you. If you go there, you know what you're going to get... and that is good service and great food. Which Wich is unique because unlike any normal deli, they have you fill out what you want on the outside of a bag, instead of going through a line and telling the servers what you want. This type of service brings a unique element to the ordering process and is a lot less stressful because you can take your time deciding what to get on your sandwich and not

have to worry about people behind you. Which Wich is especially known for their sandwich "The Wicked." This sandwich includes five different meats and three different cheeses. Although it takes a very big appetite to tackle this titan; it is one of the most delicious sandwiches you will ever put in your mouth, guaranteed. If you're looking for a smaller sandwich to fill your appetite, a standard sandwich is just enough. The bread is fabulous, and when it is heated it makes it immensely better. This superb quality is unlike Jersey Mike's, whose bread is at best average and is not often heated. A personal favorite of mine is the buffalo chicken sandwich. It is very tasty and has that extra kick that I look for in a sandwich. While the sandwiches are great, the cookies and milkshakes are possibly even better. Like the sandwiches, you must fill out a card to order your dessert, but they do not disappoint. The cookies are always hot and the milkshakes are never too warm. It makes for the perfect match when you combine the two. On the other hand, Jersey Mike's does not have milkshakes, and the cookies are never nice and warm.

Overall, Which Wich is a phenomenal eat, and is one of the best sandwich shops you will find. While Jersey Mike's may be good, they are not "a sub above" Which Wich.



*The Wicked*





# Government, Aliens, Drake, and Kinard: *What Do They All Have in Common?*



By Thomas McRae

Government, Aliens, Drake, and James Kinard: What do they all have in common? The answer is definitely the Illuminati. Approximately 2,569,273 years ago, even before Mr. Anderson was born, aliens came down to earth from the third universal dimension to control humanity. They hid until we revolutionized and became stronger people. The American Revolutionary War is the general time in which they started tampering with the human race. They created the government and controlled everything on earth. During this time, they were thinking ahead and set it up so that they could have a dank Nicolas Cage movie in 200+ years. But anyway, The Illuminati then started accepting humans into the cult to lower suspicion. They continued to lurk, until pop culture came about. They didn't understand that this was a main driver of the human race until the ultimate mistake that is Nickelback came to earth. Once they heard this, they obtained the media and pop culture world. Drake is now the leader of the Illuminati, obviously. How else would he be the most streamed artist in America? Think about his "popping" song, "Jumpman." How many times do they say Jumpman in a row? Three times, which is how many sides are on a triangle, Illuminati confirmed.

Apple doesn't recognize the Illuminati as a real organization, but auto correct does... Apple is Illuminati. This leads us to sunscreen, more or less. Sunscreen isn't real, of course. It's made by the government to gain money. Now you are going to ask, "Then why does it work when I put it on, and doesn't when I don't?" You are quite a fool because the answer is obvious: The Illuminati owns the sun. James Kinard has quite the backyard football quarterback rating. James and QBR both have 3 non- vowels in their names. Illuminati confirmed. Thank you, and don't let yourself be played by the system... unless... I am the system?



*The Illuminati Time-line*

# Snapchat Taken Down by President Trump!

By Charlie Mason

Breaking news! President Donald Trump has just released a statement on *Twitter* that he is issuing an executive order to shut down *Snapchat*. Teenagers around the globe are going crazy. He and Vice-President Mike Pence have set the day to be April 4, 2017. It was heard that President Trump thinks it is a risk that he is willing to take. Now someone needs to ask the question we are all asking which is "why"? I bet that we would get something close to, "we believe that radical terrorists are communicating and recruiting teenagers through *Snapchat* and they [teenagers] stay in contact because everything on *Snapchat* just vanishes." And this is not just another one of President Trump's "rants on *Twitter*," he is actually extremely serious on this matter. And it was heard that even the newly appointed head of the National Security, Advisor, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, thinks it will be difficult, but the NSA will be able to shut it down without too much trouble. Now is this action a hidden way of censoring social media? Is our new president following along with his new best friend Vladimir Putin, and other leaders such as

President Xi Jinping? But *Snapchat* is not going to give up. CEO and founder Evan Spiegel (no relation to famed Earth Science teacher Mr. Chris Spiegl) is planning to



move *Snapchat* to Canada probably thinking that they will do just as good as in the USA. Now how will the American citizen react to this statement? Trump probably thinks that there will be some rioting (hopefully not real violence as MBA students might take to the streets) but he will throw a press conference and everything will be alright.

Other Silicon valley companies like *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *Instagram* are worried for their businesses. I do not believe

that *Twitter* has anything to fear because we all know how making fun of people on *Twitter* is President Trump's favorite past time. And posting pictures about the "White House life" on *Instagram* is also one of his favorites. But who would have thought such a thing as being shut down would happen to the *Snapchat* we all know and love? What will Trump shut down next? How does this event impact the average MBA gentleman? To start this means no more hiding your phone under the table at lunch and no more spending your study halls snapping your friends at other schools. No more MBA *Snapchat* filters and no more streaks. In an effort to keep *Snapchat* alive, teenagers all over the country are posting on there stories the same hashtag, #saveSnapchat.







By Wyatt Bettis

Sources have confirmed a secret that MBA's favorite Earth Science teachers have been hiding for several months. Way back in the summer of 2016, MBA's two Earth Science extraordinaires created a video to apply for *The Amazing Race*. They posted the video to Facebook and sent it to executives at CBS. In the video, Mr. Spiegl detailed his time in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, and Mr. Bullington provided some quick-witted commentary to Mr. Spiegl's story of service in the Andes. The video also described their extensive experience in the Boy Scouts and their shared love of the outdoors in general. The television execs reportedly loved the duo and felt that their chemistry could be a major draw to attract more viewers.

Both teachers were officially invited by CBS to travel to Los Angeles for additional interviews

at CBS Studios. On December 27, the duo boarded a plane to Los Angeles, excited about their potential adventure in 2017 and discussing how they would talk Mr. Gioia into giving them three months off for filming. During the interviews at CBS Studios, the two men were not swayed by the possibility of fame, but instead, spoke and acted just like they always do with their eighth-grade students. The TV executives quickly realized that these men were not acting, but were two genuine people who wanted a chance for adventure and a gneiss stash of cash.

Both Mr. Spiegl and Mr. Bullington have confirmed that they will be filming for their season of the show this summer, but the episodes will not air until September. When asked about his plans for half of the prize money, Mr. Spiegl said he wants to establish a massive solar

power farm in the Chihuahuan Desert. Mr. Spiegl said he has always dreamed about becoming a pioneer of alternative energy sources and a leader in the lucrative solar energy cartels of Northern Mexico, a clean Pablo Escobar, if you will. Mr. Bullington declined requests for interviews, but rumors circulate that he plans to donate his half of the show's winnings to build a windmill in an undisclosed African village.

Every MBA student should plan to tune in to *The Amazing Race* Season 30 to watch MBA's top-notch gardeners take first place in the biggest race on Earth!



**TOH Meetings  
are every  
Tuesday in M21!**

ENTERTAINMENT

# Jar Jar Binks Script Leak

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

The agonizingly long and excruciating interlude that has led up to the release of *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*, has been filled with rumor, innuendo, script leaks and interviews. Unfortunately, we've seen no teaser trailers quite yet. Rumors about one of the main script leaks focuses on the first Jedi (fittingly due to the official title of *Episode VIII*). But the most interesting and mind-boggling script leak thus far concerns (Darth) Jar Jar Binks.

Let's take a moment to recap where the story of the saga stands. All *Star Wars* fans are hopefully well aware that Jar Jar Binks is still alive. If not, please refer to the *Twitter* account of Ahmed Best, who plays the voice of Jar Jar. He has tweeted a script, leaking the title for *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* (obviously taking place after Jar Jar Binks "died" in *Episode I*), which is entitled *Star Wars Episode II: Jar Jar's Great Adventure*.



FADE IN:  
EXT. NABOO - DAWN  
Rey and Finn are accidentally resting after a long elusive journey of escaping gungans. The Gungan Army is faintly audible which causes Rey to suddenly rise and realize how long they have slept.

REY  
Get up, Finn! We have to get out of here before the-  
FINN  
(Finn grabs his new lightsaber and starts the speeder engine.)  
I'm on it!  
Rey and Finn race through the swampy forest of Naboo, easily evading the Gungan Army. Once they meet Poe back at the Millennium Falcon and greet him with a sigh of relief.

FINN (CONT'D)  
I can't believe we found you!  
REY  
I can't believe we got lost in the first place. We would have returned hours ago if it weren't for your great thinking! I never should have trusted you in the first-

POE  
There's no time for that!  
(Poe observes the jacket in his Finn's hand)  
Where did you find that jacket?  
We'd better get back as soon as possible so we can show it to Maz. She will know what it is.

FADE IN:  
EXT. MAZ'S PALACE - EVENING  
Rey, Finn, and Poe come meet Maz at palace entrance.

MAZ  
You don't know how happy I am to see you guys! A lot has happened since your departure so we have-  
(Maz is surprised by the jacket in Finn's hand.)  
Finn, where did you find that jacket?

FINN  
Naboo Forest.  
MAZ  
Oh no! This jacket belongs to Jar Jar Binks! You could not have found this jacket in Naboo Forest! But Jar Jar died on the Virdigo Plunge on the other side of the planet!

(Startled Maz reluctantly and doubtfully turns and meets eyes with Luke. Luke grimly and understandingly nods.)

*Actual page of the script leak*

safe in the basement of her palace because Luke wanted it to be passed down to the Last Jedi, and it would not be safe with him on an island that appears to be in the middle of nowhere (hence the official title of *Episode VIII*). This story seems fitting for the story that Maz thinks is "for another time."



Wow, there is a massive amount of information leaked in this excerpt! Let's start with the concrete information. Poe Dameron takes Rey and Finn (who apparently just got a lightsaber) to planet Naboo on the Millennium Falcon where they somehow upset the Gungan Army. They luckily outrun them and safely return to the Falcon. From there, they go to Maz Kanata's palace where they meet Maz outside with Jar Jar Binks' old jacket.

The first question that arises is "Why are Rey, Finn, and Poe on Naboo?" The most obvious answer is that they had to retrieve something, perhaps a lightsaber for Finn. For all of you *Star Wars* aficionados, Naboo is obviously the planet of the Gungan species, to which Jar Jar belongs. Another question is "Why would a Jedi lightsaber be on the planet of the Gungans?" There must be a Jedi on Naboo. Jar Jar Binks comes to mind as a Jedi due to all of his "luck" with fighting and Force jumping, but that is a completely different line of reasoning, and I am getting way ahead of myself. Regardless of whose lightsaber it was, it is now Finn's, which means he is a Jedi. This was my original theory preceding this script leak because Finn is depicted holding a lightsaber on *The Force Awakens* movie poster, just like all of the other Jedi did on their respective movie posters.

The next question that could be posed is "How did they upset the Gungan Army?" First off, assuming Darth Jar Jar is a Jedi, he must be behind the Gungan Army, and therefore, the commander-in-chief of the Army (and probably for that matter the supreme leader of at least Naboo Forest). As for why they are upset, Finn probably mindlessly picked up Jar Jar's jacket, was spotted by a Gungan soldier, and ran out of pure instinct. Just for reference, the jacket is the red jacket that Jar Jar wore when he spoke to the Galactic Senate on behalf of Queen Amidala (and completely disregarded his instructions and gave complete power to Emperor Palpatine and his Dark Side, disrupted The Force, and caused all of *Star Wars*, but again, that is also a different discussion). So this jacket is definitely a key artifact of Gungan history and culture.

The final question that arises is "How do both Maz Kanata and Luke Skywalker know of Jar Jar?" The average Joe would assume, "Maz knows everyone," and disregard Luke, but that answer does not suffice. Maz Kanata does know everyone, but how did she meet Jar Jar? This is a little obscure, but I think that Jar Jar and his Gungan Army stole Luke's lightsaber, and Maz had to retrieve it for Luke and keep it



# Titans Make the Moves

By Scott Wallace

Nearly everyone following the Titans predicted that this offseason would include a decent wide receiver being signed, maybe even a couple of cornerbacks, but the Titans have made some huge trades and pickups. First off, how about the Josh Norman trade! Norman played for the Redskins last year, and he decided to join the Titans for the upcoming year. Norman may have not been happy with Washington's performance last season, which may have caused him to demand a trade. Tennessee traded Marcus Cornelius for Norman. Also, after a 9-7 season, Tennessee must have not been pleased with the coaching. Peyton Manning, who retired recently, was signed as the new head coach of the Titans, while Steve Smith Sr. is the new wide receiver coach. Speaking of wide receivers,



Tennessee really needed a couple of stars on the roster. Perhaps one of the biggest trades in NFL History, the Titans sent Demarco Murray, Brian Orakpo, Jason McCourty, and Marc Mariani to the Steelers in exchange for Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown. The Titans gave Bell a \$422,000,000 contract for two years, and they gave Brown a \$76,000 contract for six. With Marcus Mariota seriously injured, he has been rethinking his NFL career. As an effect, the Titans picked up their former quarterback Jake Locker and

they expect Locker to be next year's starting QB. The Titans have also picked up one of the best undrafted players from last year. Jackmerius Tacktheritrix from Michigan State is an absolute juggernaut with some insane skills. Most analysts now believe the Titans have an even better shot of winning the Super Bowl, and they believe the Titans will go at least 14-2 next year. You cannot say the Titans will do poorly next year especially after picking up Cornelius, Tacktheritrix, and Brown.

## CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS: WIN MONEY!

Jesse Hill Ford Short Story Contest

Who: 7th and 8th graders

What: Short story composed during the current school year.

Length: 3-8 pages, double-spaced

Prize: The best short story wins \$150!

*Due: Wednesday, April 12th*

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Rascoe Bond Davis Creative Writing Contest

Categories: Poetry and Fiction

1st place \$50

2nd place \$35

3rd place \$10

Turn in a printed copy and also e-mail a copy to Mrs. Roberts.

Junior School Entries *Due by Wednesday, April 12th.*

# Cheater Bowl?

By Joseph Bellardo

It has been determined by high ranking NFL analysts and officials that the Patriots and Falcons were involved in cheating of sorts during January's big Super Bowl game. Not only did both teams cheat, but they tried different methods as well as bribery of officials. This is never a happy scenario for an NFL commissioner, but Roger Goodell has taken the investigation to a whole new level. Because of the severity of the situation, he has enlisted the help of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the National Security Administration. Other allegations surrounding the event include meddling by the Russians with public broadcasting systems and instant replay booths. The federal agencies will investigate both teams, stadium staff, officials, coaches, the stadium itself, and anyone else having anything to do with the Super Bowl.

One way the Patriots are believed to have cheated was a twist on last year's controversy -- the Patriots are believed to have inflated the Falcons' footballs rather than deflating them. This made it hard for Matt Ryan to complete several of his passes in the fourth quarter, which led to the Patriots' comeback and unanswered points. We must also not leave out the Falcons, who are believed to have installed devices in their cleats to help them push off the turf more easily. This was easily demonstrated by Julio Jones' extraordinary jumping ability



and Devonta Freeman's leap into the end zone. The cleats also gave the Falcons speed, which resulted in several huge runs for Freeman and for Tevin Coleman. The Falcons, who were the first to hint that they had cheated after losing the game, briefly spoke about how they actually dialed down the springs and devices in the shoes so it wouldn't be too obvious.

Both of these teams are now under possible season bans from the NFL, meaning there would only be 30 teams in the league for a year. Also, draft picks, salary cap cuts, and life-long suspensions for directly involved players are being considered, but unless more evidence is uncovered, these severe sanctions are considered unlikely.

At this point, not much is really known except for the confessions of several trainers and Falcon head coach Dan Quinn. He said, "I will stand by my team and take full responsibility for any actions that were carried out by under-ranking officials who were unaware of how they were turning the tide of the game." The Patriots have refused to answer any questions on the subject. Bill Belichick only said, "Next question, please." Likewise, the Russians are staying stonily silent. The Kremlin has cancelled its weekly press conference and the Russian Ambassador to the United States has not emerged from the embassy in weeks. More is sure to come out as the press and the federal agencies continue their investigations.

Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.  
 Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.  
 Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.  
 Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.  
 Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.  
 Cheating is wrong. Cheating is wrong.





# Paintball and Mud Runs: A New Fall Tradition Begins

By Thomas Peterson

For some MBA students, traditional sports like baseball, track



*Proposed mud pit on the lower field facing Harding Road*

and soccer may have become a bit mundane. And for those students, there is good news. This fall, there are some new additions to the after-school sports lineup for MBA. After much deliberation, paintball and training for a tough mudder run will be added. These activities are intended to toughen up even the most conditioned athlete. Mr. Simpson, Jr. School Dean of Students, said of the addition of paintball, "We think the sting of paintball will really bring out the boys' competitive nature and require them to have more alert senses. It will also bring out survivor instincts that we believe can be beneficial in all areas of life. Not even members



*Mr. Simpson is geared up and ready for the new sports for the fall.*

of the debate team will be able to talk their way out of this one."

Safety waivers will be available for all competitors to sign, and Sage has already dedicated a freezer to holding ice packs for injured warriors. Adding some additional adrenaline to the extra-curricular activities list will be training for a tough mudder race. This is a 10-12 mile obstacle race filled with barriers, inclines, ice baths, and of course, mud. Mr. Simpson said, "The addition of this race will make our boys strong, physically and emotionally. In the last couple

of years, we have found that the toughness of our student body has been on a steep decline. This race is designed to help develop true men that are not afraid to combat the elements. Nothing says tough better than a mud bath with thirty of your closest friends."

The Mother's Club is taking up a special collection of splints, band-aids, Tide detergent and protein bars in honor of these special additions to MBA's after-school sports lineup. Administrators are confident that these two sports will become exciting new traditions at MBA.



*MBA students trying out the new paintball course.*



# A-Team Basketball

By Will Coulthard



The junior school Big Red A-team had a strong finish to their 2017 season after overcoming many adversities to make it to the semifinals to face Brentwood Academy, who would go on to win the tournament. The team consisted of A-team veterans Lucien Brunetti ('21) and Will Montana ('21), combined with Maxwell Battle ('21), Mark Pyburn ('21), Will Coulthard ('21), Dan Gaw ('21), Colyer Haddock ('21), Max Dillon ('21), Kendrick Abernathy ('21), Frank Bass ('21), and seventh-grader Grayson

Montana with seventeen points. The team itself scored more than twenty points in the second quarter alone. The Big Red struggled to account for lack of size early on in their season and lost a handful of preseason games as well as their season opener to Brentwood Middle School, whose team was able to hit a miraculous buzzer beater. MBA came back stronger than ever to beat a quick, good shooting Lipscomb team

Morgan ('22). To start the season, the A-team played in the Overbrook Tournament and had a strong, convincing win against Page Middle School, led by Will

and were led by scorers Will Montana and Mark Pyburn with stifling defense provided by the entire team. The Big Red then lost two straight painfully close games to talented Ensworth and BA teams. The team hit a low in an excruciating loss to FRA. Coach Jackson and Coach Davis rallied the team and they were able to finish the season and make the HVAC gold tournament with a fourth seed against Goodpasture, who the team had defeated earlier in the season. The Big Red won the game on the road to advance to the semis against BA. Brentwood Academy got off to an early lead that would be too large for the Big Red to overcome, despite runs late in the game. The team had a great year and hope to continue as high schoolers to contend for another championship and have another great season. Go Big Red!

# Basketball B

By Jackson Francis



MBA's Junior School B-Team had an exciting basketball season. Finishing with a tremendous record of 8-3, the team was led by the brilliant Coach Todd Moran and consisted of eleven players: Clay Crawford, Ian Bernatavitz, Patrick Wilk, Sam Bartholomew, Jackson Francis, Kayman Cooke, Arthur Bennett, Nicky Bennett, Ethan Dallas, Rhett Hayles, and Eli Davis.

The B-Team started off the season strong with a victory over St. Henry's. It was a close game all the way until the middle of the fourth quarter when MBA went on a scoring streak to take the lead by 20 points. For the next game, the team geared up to face a tough Brentwood Middle School opponent. MBA had a hard time recovering from a slow start at the beginning of the game but still managed to be in the lead by one point with a few seconds left on the clock. Unfortunately, BMS hit an insane buzzer-beater to win by one in the end. In the next game against Lipscomb

Academy, MBA played extremely well, but an incredible three-point shooting performance by Lipscomb gave Lipscomb the upper hand in the fourth quarter and the team lost by just a few points.

MBA would, however, quickly bounce back by handily defeating FRA in a close one. It was a tight game in the first quarter, but the Big Red picked up the pace the rest of the game and came out victorious over the Panthers. Next on the list was rival Brentwood Academy. It was a heated matchup, and the game was incredibly close up until midway through the fourth when BA's shooting started to heat up. By the end of the third, BA had a commanding 15-point lead, but the Big Red would not go down easily. The team rallied to eventually cut the lead down to 7, and with one minute left in the fourth quarter BA's lead was down to just two. Unfortunately, BA held strong in the end to hand the B-Team Big Red their final loss of the season. From there, the Big Red went on a fierce six-game win streak. In their next three games, they soundly defeated Battle Ground

Academy, won a close one against CPA with great hustle and teamwork, and crushed Ensworth Middle School in a huge 30-point victory. The next opponent on the schedule was Goodpasture Christian School. This game was close toward the beginning, but the Big Red pulled away and held a commanding 12-point lead by the end of the second half. Goodpasture did all they could to close the gap and battled back to pull the lead to within 5 points, but it was not enough. MBA held on to win the game by nine points. In their next game against University School of Nashville, great energy and teamwork would lead the Big Red to an easy 20-point win. And soon after, the B-Team Big Red closed their season with a win against Donelson Christian Academy, in which they played extremely hard and earned another big 20-point victory. This season was definitely one to remember.

There were many ups-and-downs, but these outstanding players were led well by Coach Todd Moran, who helped them pull it together when things got tough. Despite the three games chalked up in the loss column, everyone on the team would definitely call this season an unequivocal success.



# Microbe C-Basketball

By John Wright Kesting

The Microbe Basketball C-Team had an outstanding 2017 season. New coach Amos Gregory lead the team to a solid record of 8-2, including a comeback win against Lipscomb Academy where the team was down by almost ten points at halftime. The mighty C-Team was able to rally up points in the second half to get the game to a tie. With one minute remaining, MBA made a go-ahead basket which resulted in a 25-23 victory for the Big Red. One of the team's only two losses was to St. Edwards, which was the last game of the season, ending with a tough loss of 33-30, losing in the final



**The 2016-2017 Microbe C Basketball Team**

minutes of the game. During the course of season, the Microbe C team had some commanding victories beating St. Edwards (the first time), Overbrook, FH Jenkins (twice), Lipscomb, Ezell Harding, Valor, and Stem Prep. Not to mention beating FH Jenkins, Ezell Harding, Valor, Stem Prep, all by over thirty points. The C-Team had twelve members consisting of Bix Beavers, Max Bertani, Dhruv Chandra, Ryan DeCoster, Ian Durelli, Max Hastings, Ingram Hitt, William Holleman, John

Wright Kesting, Carson Mire, Billy Morris, and Maxwell Potts. Most of the reason for the success this team had was from Coach Gregory pushing the team in practice. The team went hard in practice starting back all the way back in November, which made them prepared for any challenges they faced. There was lots of hard work put in throughout the course of the season which allowed the Microbe C-Team to have a fun and exciting season.

# Gaming to Enter Fall Sports Lineup

By Don Pierce



makes sure everyone is doing a sport, is quoted as saying, "Gaming will be an educational sport that will be hosted after school." This sport will be held during both Winter I and II, and there will be a possible tournament at the end of the season, which will include many of the best gamers in the school.

Gaming will be introduced as a new sport this fall. Many faculty members will be supporting it because they believe that it will be a good educational activity for after school. Gaming is known to increase motor skills and improve hand-eye coordination. The faculty leader is unknown right now, but the games are known. The games will include everything from *CS:GO* to *Minecraft* and *slither.io*. The sport will be treated in a similar way to debate in that there will be workouts included to meet the student's athletic capabilities. Mrs. Bassett, the school sports manager, who

Console games will also be included on the list of gaming opportunities. The games included on are *Destiny 2*, *Call of Duty*, and *Battlefield 1*. These games are known to have blood and gore, so if they are accepted, parents must know and give permission for their students to play. Other games will be included such as *Minecraft*, which the gaming community views as an early start to gaming and a good representation of art and architecture. A starting course on programing will be offered to students who are searching for a start in

the early process of making a game and will carry on into the summer as a class for all students grades 9-12 wanting to get into an accelerated course of study.

Other programing and gaming options will be made over the summer. In programing, minor courses in online business, which will look at not only running a business but also the trends with building a business and web design will be offered to students. Other programing options will include a branch into robotics so the student may then possibly choose robotics for a quarter. Gaming options over summer will include highly competitive tournaments in both console and PC platforms. There will also be groups of high school and junior school tournaments during the year that will merit wins.

In all, gaming will be a new way for students to express themselves creatively and intelligently and will be offered to all grades after school. We believe that this sport will be a very good opportunity for students to practice needed skills that will help them later in life.



*Photo by Jack Flanagan*

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